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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/082,127 05/20/98 IDEHARA T 05058/70001

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EXAMINER

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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

2624

DATE MAILED:

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

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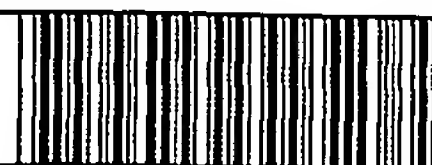
Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/082,127

Applicant(s)
Takenori Idehara et al.

Examiner
King Y. Poon

Group Art Unit
2624



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Feb 5, 2001

☒ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claim

☒ Claim(s) 7, 9-22, 25-27, 30, 31, 33-35, 37-41, and 56-59 is/are pending in the applicat

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 7, 9-22, 25-27, 30, 31, 33-35, 37-41, and 56-59 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☒ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☒ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 10

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

2. Claims 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Blair et al.

Regarding claim 7: Blair teaches a machine readable medium (memory of work station, column 3 line 54) on which utility program (114 of column 4 line 33-38) started up in a linked manner by an application program (management application of column 5 line 34-36) giving a print command to an image forming apparatus (laser printer, column 5 line 23-34) connected to a network (abstract) is recorded, the utility program comprising: a display step for displaying on a display means (column 4 line 50-55) locations of image forming apparatuses connected to the network; (column 4 line 61-67, column 5 line 1-2); and a select step (column 5 line 13-20) for selecting as an output destination an image forming apparatus corresponding to a thus displayed location which is designated by a user; wherein the display step further includes a sub-step for displaying on the display means characters (LJ2, 4si, fig. 6) describing the name of each of the image forming apparatuses and characters describing a corresponding location at which the

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respective one of the image forming apparatuses is installed. (Foothill 2/2 is a name (fig. 6, column 4 line 60-67) of locations corresponding to each of the printers.)

3. Claims 56-59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ooki.

Regarding claim 56: Ooki teaches a program (column 1 line 40-41) that can be read by a computer which has a computer execute the steps of: selecting a first printer, (column 3 line 59-60) as an output destination of image data, from among a plurality of printers (printers of column 3 line 3-5) connected to a network; (100, fig. 1) determining whether the first printer is currently available or not; (see printer A, fig. 5 is not available to print with a speed of 1 and resolution of 0 set by a user using equation of column 4, line 44-57) and selecting a second printer, (printer B) from a plurality of printers connected to a network, as a substitute output apparatus (B is selected instead of A) when said first printer is not available. (To print with a speed of 1, and resolution of 0)

Regarding claim 57: Ooki teaches that the second printer selected as a substitute output apparatus is located in closest proximity to the user. (Printer B is the printer that is located in closest proximity to the user because it is the only printer in the network that would be selected besides printer A, fig. 4)

Regarding claim 58: Ooki teaches that the second printer selected as a substitute output apparatus exceeds the first printer in function. (See printer B prints faster than A, fig. 5)

Regarding claim 59: Ooki teaches that the second printer selected as a substitute output apparatus exceeds the first printer in printing speed. (See printer B prints faster than A, fig. 5)

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4. Claims 30, 31, 38-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Dev.

Regarding claim 30: Dev teaches a machine readable medium (see workstation of column 4 line 35-55) on which program for selecting (abstract) an input-output apparatus from a plurality of input-output apparatuses (network device of abstract) connected to a network is recorded, the program comprises: a layout diagram displaying step displaying a layout diagram of a room on a display means; (fig. 7C) an icon displaying step displaying icons (abstract) each representing one of the input-output apparatuses (column 7 line 25-26) at locations corresponding to actual installation locations of the input-output apparatuses in the room as items of selection over the layout diagram displayed on the display means at the layout diagram displaying step; (fig 7C and column 13 line 1-10) and an input-output selecting step selecting one of the input-output apparatuses represented by an icon selected from the icons displayed at the icon displaying step, (abstract), wherein the layout diagram is received from another one of the input-output apparatuses through the network. (See fig. 1, column 3 line 58-65, and column 4 line 48-55)

Regarding claim 31: Dev teaches a machine readable medium (see workstation of column 4 line 35-55) on which program for selecting (abstract) an input-output apparatus from a plurality of input-output apparatuses (network device of abstract) connected to a network is recorded, the program comprises: a layout diagram displaying step displaying a layout diagram of a room on a display means; (fig. 7C) an icon displaying step displaying icons (abstract) each representing one of the input-output apparatuses (column 7 line 25-26) at locations

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corresponding to actual installation locations of the input-output apparatuses in the room as items of selection over the layout diagram displayed on the display means at the layout diagram displaying step; (fig 7C and column 13 line 1-10) and an input-output selecting step selecting one of the input-output apparatuses represented by an icon selected from the icons displayed at the icon displaying step, (abstract), wherein the layout diagram comprises a plurality of layout diagrams organized as layers at different levels composing a hierarchical structure. (See fig. 7A, 7B, 7C, abstract)

Regarding claims 38, 41: Dev teaches a machine readable medium (see workstation of column 4 line 35-55) on which program (column 4 line 35-55) for a network system connecting a plurality of computers and a plurality of input-output apparatuses (fig. 2) is recorded the program comprises: a user name displaying (see main computer lab, administration of fig. 7B regularly using the network to communicate with other network stations) step displaying the names of users regularly using said network system as items of selection; (the main computer lab is to be selected by other workstations, see abstract) a user name selecting step selecting one of the names displayed at said user name displaying step; an input-output apparatus displaying step displaying only the input-output apparatuses associated with one of the users with the name thereof selected at the user name selecting step as items of selection; (see main computer lab being selected of fig. 7C) and an input-output apparatus selecting step selecting a desired one of the input-output apparatuses displayed at the input-output apparatus displaying step as an input-output destination. (See fig. 7C, 8A, and abstract)

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Regarding claim 39: Dev teaches that the user name displaying step further includes a sub-step of displaying the names of the users (see users: quality assurance group, hardware development group, and software development group of fig. 8B) on a layout diagram (fig. 8B) along with icons each representing one of the input-output apparatuses. (344, 342, 340 of fig. 8B)

Regarding claim 40: Dev teaches a step of creating a plurality of images (column 4 line 25-30) or tables each showing installation location of the input-output apparatuses on layers at different levels forming a hierarchical structure; (fig. 7A, B, C) a step displaying a high level image or a high level table on one of the layers at a high level in the hierarchical structure wherein the high level image or the high level table shows items of selection; and a step displaying a low level image or a low level table on another one of the layers at a level immediately lower than the high level in the hierarchical structure wherein the low level image or the low level table is determined by an item selected from the items of selection shown in the high level image or the high level table. (See column 12 line 40-67, and column 13 line 1-40)

5. Claims 9, 10, 14, 15, 25, 26, 33, 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sugiyama et al.

Regarding claim 9: Suguyama teaches a machine readable medium (column 11 line 51) on which is recorded a program (51-58, fig. 2) for selecting a desired input-output apparatus (column 75 line 30-55) from a plurality of input-output apparatuses connected to a network, (fig. 2) the program comprising: a first display step for classifying the input output apparatuses into

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plurality of categories with different functions (see scan and print function of BT4, fig. 91) and displaying functions on a display means as items of selection; (to be selected by using button BT4 to scan or print) and a second display step for displaying on the display means as items of selection (see printer A, B, C, and scanner A, B, C are to be selected) only input output apparatuses (see only scanner C is being displayed with its scan parameter) having one of those functions (selecting scanner C is selecting a function of scan) selected by a user.

Regarding claim 10: Sugiyama teaches a machine readable medium according to claim 9, wherein said second display step includes a sub-step for displaying on said display means information indicating whether or not each respective one of the input-output apparatuses is usable. (Column 75 line 37-41)

Regarding claim 14: Sugiyama teaches a machine readable medium (column 11 line 51) on which is recorded a program (51-58, fig. 2) for selecting a desired input-output apparatus (column 75, line 30-55) from a plurality of input-output apparatuses connected to a network, (fig. 2) the program comprising: a first display step (fig. 91) for classifying the input output apparatuses into a plurality of categories (scan and print function, BT4, fig. 91) with different pieces of document (document/manuscript, column 47, line 25-30) identification information (see column 46 line 47-65, document is identified by scan job or print job) and for displaying on a display means as items of selection (select print or scan, fig. 91) pieces of document identification information; and a second display step for displaying on display means as items of selection (see printer A, B, C, or scanner A, B, or C are to be selected) only the input-output

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apparatuses which are capable of receiving a document type specified by a thus displayed document identification information (column 75, line 37-41) which is selected by a user.

Regarding claim 15: Sugiyama teaches a machine readable medium according to claim 14, wherein the second display step includes a sub-step for displaying on the display means information indicating whether or not each respective one of the input-output apparatuses is usable. (Column 75 line 37-41)

Regarding claim 25: Sugiyama teaches an input-output apparatus selecting method (column 75, line 30-55) for selecting a desired input-output apparatus from a plurality of input-output apparatuses connected to a network system, (fig. 1, fig. 2) the input-output apparatus selecting method comprising: a step for classifying the input-output apparatuses connected to said network system into a plurality of categories with different functions (see scanner and printer of fig. 91) and for displaying the functions on a display means as items of selection; (BT4 of fig. 91) and a step for displaying on the display means as items of selection only the input-output apparatuses having one of the functions selected by the user. (See scanner C/ function of scan being selected by a user and scanner C is the only scanner displayed with its scan parameter)

Regarding claim 26: Sugiyama teaches an input-output apparatus selecting method (column 75, line 30-55) for selecting a desired input-output apparatus from a plurality of input-output apparatuses connected to a network system (fig. 1, 2) wherein the apparatuses are cataloged by classifying the apparatuses into groups (scan and print function, BT4, fig. 91)

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identified by document (document/manuscript, column 47, line 25-30) identification codes, (see column 46 line 47-65, document code is identified as scan or print) the input-output apparatus selecting method comprising: a step for displaying the document identification codes (scanner/printer, fig. 91) on a display means as items of selection; and a step for displaying on said display means as items of selection only the input-output apparatuses cataloged in one of the groups identified by one of the document identification codes selected by the user. (See scanner C/ document code-scan being selected by a user and scanner C is the only scanner displayed with its scan parameter)

Regarding claims 33, 37: Sugiyama teaches a machine readable medium (56 of fig. 2) on which program written for a network system (column 11 line 1) to which a plurality of input-output apparatuses (100, 200 of fig. 1) and pluralities of computers (fig. 2) are connected is recorded, the program comprises: a first step for classifying the input-output apparatuses into a plurality of categories (see scanner and printer of fig. 91) having different functions and displaying the functions on a display means as items of selection; (see scan parameters of fig. 91) a second step for displaying only the input-output apparatuses (see scanner C/function scan is selected by a user, and the display displaying only scanner C with scan parameter) corresponding to one of the categories having a function selected from the functions displayed at the first step on the display means as items of selection; (see the display of printer A, B, C or scanner A, B, C of fig. 91) and a third step specifying an input-output apparatus selected from the input-output apparatuses displayed at second step as an input-output destination. (See column 75 line 30-55)

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6. Claims 11-13, 16-22, 27, 34, 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugiyama in view of Dev et al.

Regarding claims 11, 16: Sugiyama has disclosed all of the claim limitations as recited in claim 9, 14 except that the second display step further includes a sub-step for displaying on the display means a map of the network with symbolic marks of the input-output apparatuses on the map, with each symbolic mark representing an installation location of respective ones of the input-output apparatuses.

Dev teaches to use a display (user display, abstract) for displaying a map of the network with symbolic marks (icons of abstract) of the input-output apparatuses on the map, with each symbolic mark representing an installation location of respective ones of the input-output apparatuses. (Column 12 line 42-58) Sugiyama and Dev are combinable because they are from the same area of displaying network devices.

At the time of invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified the program of Sugiyama to display a map of the network with symbolic marks of the input-output apparatuses on the map, with each symbolic mark representing an installation location of respective ones of the input output apparatuses, as taught by Dev. The suggestion of doing so would have provided a user with complete and precise representation of the network system such that the system would be more flexible and extendable, as taught by Dev. (See column 2 line 1-15)

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Regarding claims 12, 17: Dev and Sugiyama teach a step for setting as an apparatus to be used one of the input-output apparatuses represented by one of the symbolic marks as selected by a user. (see column 75 line 30-55, Sugiyama) As discussed in claim 11, the combine teaching of Sugiyama and Dev teaches to represent the printers/scanners by symbolic marks displayed on a map.

Regarding claims 13, 18: Dev and Sugiyama teach to display at locations in close proximity to each one of the symbolic marks representing the input-output apparatuses information indicating whether or not each of the input-output apparatuses is usable. (Column 12 line 64-67, Dev, column 75, line 37-42, Sugiyama) As discussed in claim 11, the combine teaching of Sugiyama and Dev teaches to represent the printers/scanners by symbolic marks displayed on a map.

Regarding claims: 19, 27: Sugiyama teaches a machine readable medium (column 11 line 51) on which is recorded a program (51-58, fig. 2) for selecting a desired input-output apparatus (column 75 line 30-55) from a plurality of input-output apparatuses connected to a network, (fig. 2) the program comprising: a select step for selecting one of the image forming apparatuses as an output destination designated by a user; (column 75 line 30-55) a judgment step for judging whether or not the image forming apparatus set at the select step is capable of carrying out printing; (column 63 line 50-65, column 75 line 37-41, judge for performing reverse display) and a display step (fig. 91) displaying on a display means, (column 75, line 11) the image forming apparatuses which are capable of carrying out printing to serve as a substitute for the image

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forming apparatus set at the select step in case an outcome of the judgment formed at the judgment step indicates that the image forming apparatus set at the select step would not carry out printing. (Fig. 91, column 75, line 37-41)

Sugiyama does not teach to display the installation location of the image forming apparatus.

However, Dev teaches to display the installation location of the network devices (image forming apparatus) while displaying the network device (See abstract) on a display. Sugiyama and Dev are combinable because they are from the same area of displaying network devices.

Therefore, at the time of invention, it would have been obvious to modify the display method of Sugiyama by displaying the installation location of the image forming apparatus while displaying the image forming apparatus, (both the image forming devices that would or would not carry out the printing), as taught by Dev. The suggestion of doing so would have provided a user with complete and precise representation of the network system such that the system would be more flexible and extendable, as taught by Dev. (See column 2 line 1-15) Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Dev and Sugiyama to obtain the invention as specified in claims 19, 27.

Regarding claim 20: Dev and Sugiyama teach to display a map of the network with symbolic marks (320 of fig. 7c, icons of abstract, Dev) of the image forming apparatuses (column 5 line 26, Dev) on the map, with each symbolic mark representing an installation location

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(hierarchical location view, and topological view, abstract, Dev) of respective ones of the image forming apparatus.

Regarding claim 21: Dev and Sugiyama teach to set as an output destination (see the output of the destination (location) view by clicking on of the icon by a user, column 13 line 4-5, Dev) an image forming apparatus represented by a corresponding one of the symbolic mark selected by the user.

Regarding claim 22: Sugiyama and Dev teach to display characters describing the name of (column 5 line 27-35, line 65-67) each of the image forming apparatuses and characters describing a location at which each of the image forming apparatuses is installed on the display means. (See main computer lab, fig. 7c.)

Regarding claim 34: Sugiyama teaches: a step of displaying input-output apparatuses as items of selection, (fig. 91) and a step selecting one of the input-output apparatuses as an input-output destination. (Column 75 line 30-55, fig. 94)

Sugiyama does not teach while displaying the input-output apparatuses for selection, to display a layout image representing locations of the input-output apparatuses on the display means, display icons each representing one of the input-output apparatuses at locations corresponding to actual installation locations of the input-output apparatuses over the layout image displayed on the display means as items of selection, and select one of the input-output apparatuses represented by an icon selected from the icons as an input-output destination.

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Dev teaches while displaying the input-output apparatuses for selection, (abstract) to display a layout image representing locations of the input-output apparatuses on the display means, (fig. 7A, B, C) display icons (abstract) each representing one of the input-output apparatuses at locations corresponding to actual installation locations of the input-output apparatuses over the layout image displayed on the display means as items of selection, and select one of the input-output apparatuses represented by an icon selected from the icons as an input-output destination. (abstract) Sugiyama and Dev are combinable because they are from the same area of displaying network devices.

Therefore, at the time of invention, it would have been obvious to modify the display and device selection method of Sugiyama by: while displaying the input-output apparatuses for selection, to display a layout image representing locations of the input-output apparatuses on the display means, display icons each representing one of the input-output apparatuses at locations corresponding to actual installation locations of the input-output apparatuses over the layout image displayed on the display means as items of selection, and select one of the input-output apparatuses represented by an icon selected from the icons as an input-output destination, as taught by Dev. The suggestion of doing so would provide a user with complete and precise representation of the network system such that a network device such as an input-output device would be easily selected by the user and thereby, the system would be more flexible and extendable, as taught by Dev. (See column 2 line 1-15) Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Dev and Sugiyama to obtain the invention as specified in claim 34.

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Regarding claim 35: Sugiyama teaches to create a plurality of images or tables each showing the input-output apparatuses on layers of different levels forming a hierarchical structure and storing the hierarchical structure; (fig. 91, and 2102 of fig. 63) a step displaying a high level image or a high level table (see scanner or printer of fig. 91) on one of the layers at a high level in the hierarchical structure wherein the high level image or the high level table shows items of selection; (see printer A, B, C of fig. 91) and a step displaying a low level image or a low level table (see parameter of fig. 91) on another one of the layers at a level immediately lower than the high level in the hierarchical structure wherein the low level image or the low level table is determined by an item selected from the items of selection shown in the high level image or the high level table.

Sugiyama does not teach to display the installation location of the image forming apparatus using the hierarchical structure of displaying.

However, Dev teaches to display the installation location of the network devices (image forming apparatus), using hierarchical structure of displaying, (abstract, column 12 line 42-58) while displaying the network device. (See abstract) Sugiyama and Dev are combinable because they are from the same area of displaying network devices.

Therefore, at the time of invention, it would have been obvious to modify the hierarchical display method of Sugiyama by using the display method of Sugiyama for displaying the installation location of the image forming apparatus while displaying the image forming apparatus, as taught by Dev. The suggestion of doing so would provide a user with complete and

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precise representation of the network system such that the system would be more flexible and extendable, as taught by Dev. (See column 2 line 1-15) Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Dev and Sugiyama to obtain the invention as specified in claim 35.

REMARKS

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 7 on page 17, 18; claim 14 on page 21; claim 26 on page 24 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Please see office action.

With respect to applicant's argument on page 19, claim 9; page 30, claims 11-13 that Sugiyama does not teach displaying on the display as item of selection only the input output apparatus having one of the functions selected by the user, has been considered.

In reply: Fig. 91 of Sugiyama teach to display only scanner c with its scan parameter when scanner c is selected by a user using cursor k. Scanner c is selected by a user for the scanner's function of performing a scanning operation.

With respect to applicant's argument on page 20, claim 9 that Sugiyama can only display a list of printers and scanners, has been considered.

In reply, fig. 91 of Sugiyama clearly only display scanner c with scan parameter.

With respect to applicant's argument on page 23, claim 25 that Sugiyama does not teach to display only the input-output apparatus having one of the functions selected by a user, has been considered.

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In reply: Fig. 91 of Sugiyama teach to display only scanner c with its scan parameter when scanner c is selected by a user using cursor k. Scanner c is selected by a user for the scanner's function of performing a scanning operation.

With respect to applicant's argument on page 25, claim 33; and on page 26, claim 37 that Sugiyama does not teach displaying only the input-output apparatuses pertaining to one of the categories having a function selected from the function displayed, and specifying as an input-output destination an input output apparatus displayed, has been considered.

In reply: Fig. 91 of Sugiyama teach to display only scanner c with its scan parameter when scanner c is selected by a user using cursor k. Scanner c is selected by a user for the scanner's function of performing a scanning operation. Moreover, column 75 line 8-55 clearly teaches that fig. 91 is a method step of setting the input output apparatus selected as an output destination of a print/scan job.

With respect to applicant's argument on page 27, claims 30, 31 that Dev does not teach designate any apparatus as an input-output destination, has been considered.

In reply: Claim 30, and 31 do not have the limitation of designation. Abstract, column 12 line 42-58 of Dev clearly teaches to have a user to select the display of an input output apparatus by using an icon, and the icon is selected by a user to view the location (destination) of the input output apparatus in a map.

With respect to applicant's argument on pages 28 and 29, claims 38, 41 that Dev does not teach the selection of user's name displayed on a display means to view only input-output

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apparatus associated with a user, as an input output recipient, and as an input output destination, has been considered.

In reply: Main computer lab, administration, software group of fig. 7B, Dev are all user name referring to a group of users regularly using the network to communicate with other network stations. The icon of those users would also be selected by other users to view the input output apparatus associated with the group of users, (See column 3 line 1-10) as well as a location (destination) of the input output apparatus. (Abstract) To select any apparatus as an input-output recipient is not a limitation in claim 38.

With respect to applicant's argument on page 32, claim 19, and on page 34, claim 27 that Sugiyama does not teach displaying the image forming apparatuses which are capable of carrying out printing to serve as a substitute for the image forming apparatus set at the select step in case an outcome of the judgment formed at the judgment step indicates that the image forming apparatus set at the select step would not carry out printing, has been considered.

In reply: Column 75 line 35-41, Sugiyama clearly teaches to use reverse display to display the image forming apparatuses set at the select step that would not carry out printing, (Error) in order to distinguish from those printers that can be selected (substitute) to carry out printing. (Non-error) Fig. 91 is a procedure for a user to follow in order to select a printer for printing. Column 63 line 60-63, Sugiyama further teaches that the printer in error is judged by the host from an error signal sent from CPU1000, and at the same time the host would select a printer as an alternated (substitute) printer.

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Action is Final, Necessitated by Amendment

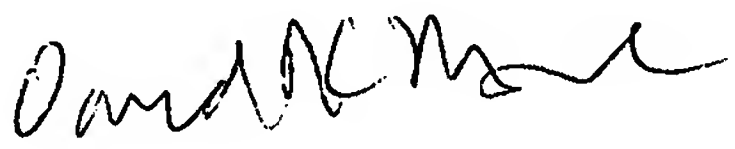
8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground of rejection presented in this office action. Therefore, THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. See MPEP 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTHS shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to King Y. Poon whose telephone number is (703) 305-0892 or to Supervisor Mr. David Moore whose phone number is (703) 308-7452.

April 3, 2001


DAVID MOORE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600